

In The Claims:

Please replace the previously presented claim set with the following replacement claim set:

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a unitary polymer substrate having a napped surface comprising:

providing a resilient template surface comprising a release material and having a plurality of microdepressions therein, wherein the resilient template surface comprises a polymer foam or a silicone rubber;

laminating a surface of a thermoplastic polymer substrate to the template surface such that a portion of the thermoplastic polymer enters into the plurality of microdepressions; and

delaminating the thermoplastic polymer surface from the template surface while maintaining the thermoplastic polymer surface in a sufficiently softened state such that a plurality of microfibers are generated on the thermoplastic polymer surface prior to debonding of the thermoplastic polymer surface from the template surface.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the microfibers have an average length of about 50 to about 500 microns.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the microdepressions have an average depth of no more than about 40% of the average microfiber length.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein,

the providing step comprises providing a resilient template surface comprising a release material and having a plurality of undercut-shaped microdepressions therein;

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the laminating step comprises laminating the polymer surface to the resilient template surface such that a portion of the thermoplastic polymer enters into the plurality of undercut-shaped microdepressions; and

the delaminating step comprises delaminating the polymer surface from the resilient surface while maintaining the polymer surface in a sufficiently softened state to generate a plurality of expanded-cross section shaped microfibers projecting from the polymer surface.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the resilient template surface comprises a polymer foam.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the resilient template surface is formed from a silicone rubber.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the template surface is formed from a silicone rubber film having a surface with a plurality of partial sphere shaped microdepressions therein.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a unitary polymer substrate having a napped surface comprising:

providing a template surface comprising a release material and having a plurality of microdepressions therein;

laminating a surface of a thermoplastic polymer substrate to the template surface such that a portion of the thermoplastic polymer enters into the plurality of microdepressions; and

delaminating the thermoplastic polymer surface from the template surface while maintaining the thermoplastic polymer surface in a sufficiently softened state such that a plurality of microfibers are generated on the thermoplastic polymer surface prior to debonding of the thermoplastic polymer surface from the template surface; The method of claim 19 wherein

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the providing step comprises providing a template surface comprising a release material and having a plurality of microdepressions therein, wherein the microdepressions have a non-release surface therein,

the laminating step comprises laminating the polymer substrate to the template surface to form micropressions on the polymer substrate, each micropression being bonded to one of the microdepression non-release surfaces; and

the delaminating step comprises delaminating the polymer substrate from the template surface while maintaining the polymer substrate in a sufficiently softened state such that the micropressions are stretched into microfibers before debonding from the non-release surfaces.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the microfibers have an average maximum cross-sectional dimension of about 25 to about 200 microns.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the microfibers have an average length of about 50 to about 500 microns.

29. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the microfibers have a tapered cross-section.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the microfibers have a curved profile.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein

the providing step comprises providing a template surface comprising a screen laminated to a surface of a non-release substrate, the screen having an outer surface formed from a release material.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31 wherein the screen is formed from silicone rubber.

33-41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a unitary polymer substrate having a napped surface, said method comprising:

providing a resilient template surface having a plurality of microdepressions therein;

laminating a surface of a thermoplastic polymer substrate to the resilient template surface such that a portion of the thermoplastic polymer enters into the plurality of microdepressions; and

delaminating the thermoplastic polymer surface from the resilient template surface while maintaining the thermoplastic polymer surface in a sufficiently softened state such that a plurality of microfibers are generated on the thermoplastic polymer surface prior to debonding of the thermoplastic polymer surface from the resilient template surface.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the providing step comprises providing a resilient template surface comprising a release material and having a plurality of undercut-shaped microdepressions therein.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the providing step comprises providing a resilient template surface comprising a polymer foam.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the polymer foam is an open cell foam.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the providing step comprises providing a resilient template surface comprising a silicone rubber.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the providing step comprises providing a resilient template surface comprising a silicone rubber film having a surface with a plurality of partial sphere-shaped microdepressions therein.

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48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the providing step comprises providing a resilient template surface comprising a release material and having a plurality of microdepressions therein, wherein the microdepressions have a non-release surface therein.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the microfibers have an average maximum cross-sectional dimension of about 25 to about 200 microns.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the microfibers have an average length of about 50 to about 500 microns.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the microfibers have a tapered cross-section.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the microfibers have a curved profile.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the providing step comprises providing a resilient template surface comprising a screen laminated to a surface of a non-release substrate, the screen having an outer surface formed from a release material.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the screen is formed from a silicone rubber.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the ~~providing step comprises providing a resilient template surface having method results in~~ a random array of ~~microdepressions therein~~ placement of microfibers on the thermoplastic polymer surface of the thermoplastic polymer substrate.

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56. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a unitary polymer substrate having a napped surface, said method comprising:

providing a resilient template surface having a plurality of undercut-shaped microdepressions therein;

laminating a thermoplastic polymer substrate to the resilient template surface such that a portion of the thermoplastic polymer enters into the plurality of undercut-shaped microdepressions; and

delaminating the thermoplastic polymer substrate from the resilient template surface while maintaining a surface of the thermoplastic polymer substrate in a sufficiently softened state such that a plurality of microfibers are generated on the thermoplastic polymer surface prior to debonding of the thermoplastic polymer substrate from the resilient template surface.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the providing step comprises providing a resilient template surface comprising an open cell foam.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the providing step comprises providing a resilient template surface comprising a silicone rubber film having a surface with a plurality of partial sphere-shaped microdepressions therein.

59. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a unitary polymer substrate having a napped surface, said method comprising:

providing a template surface comprising a release material and having a plurality of microdepressions therein, said microdepressions have a non-release surface therein;

laminating a thermoplastic polymer substrate to the template surface such that a portion of the thermoplastic polymer enters into the plurality of microdepressions; and

delaminating the thermoplastic polymer substrate from the template surface while maintaining a surface of the thermoplastic polymer substrate in a sufficiently softened state such

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that a plurality of microfibers are generated on the thermoplastic polymer surface prior to debonding of the thermoplastic polymer substrate from the template surface.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the providing step comprises providing a template surface comprising a release material and having a plurality of microdepressions therein, said microdepressions have a non-release surface therein, wherein the non-release surface is located on a bottom portion of the microdepressions.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the providing step comprises providing a template surface comprising a polyolefin film having a plurality of microdepressions embossed therein and overcoated with a release material such that the bottom portion of the microdepressions and an outer surface of the polyolefin film comprise the release material.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the polyolefin film comprises a polypropylene film, and the release material comprises a silicone release material.